



---

December, 2022

**Special Dates:**

**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** (December 8)

**Gaudete Sunday (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun of Advent / Rejoice Sunday)** (December 11)

**National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples /**

**Our Lady of Guadalupe** (December 12)

**The Nativity of the Lord** (December 25)

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph** (December 30)

**Featured Special Days:**      **The 'O' Antiphons** (December 17-23)

"An antiphon is a short passage or verse, usually from Scripture, which is prayed before and after the Psalms and canticles in the Liturgy of the Hours. In the last days of Advent, from December 17 through December 23, the antiphons for the Magnificat at Evening Prayer call upon Christ under the many names used by the prophets in the Old Testament, and ask him to hasten his return. Each of these antiphons begins with 'O' (hence their name). The first 'O' Antiphon begins, *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom). Then comes *Adonai* (Sacred Lord), *Radix Jesse* (Root of Jesse), *Clavis David* (Key of David), *Oriens* (Dawn), *Rex gentium* (King of peoples), and finally *Emmanuel* (God-is-with-us). The favorite Advent carol, *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, is actually John M. Neale's translation of these ancient antiphons.

"Companion to the Calendar: Second Edition" published by LTP

Another place you will find reference to the O Antiphons is in the Gospel acclamation during those days!



---

**Food for Thought!    The Assembly, a Community of Faith:**

**Connecting with Believers over the Ages** “The liturgy we celebrate today contains both a future and a past dimension. Every time we pray the ‘Our Father’ we pray for the coming of God’s kingdom. The reign of God that Jesus preached is present in our midst, but has not yet come to fulfillment. As Christians we continue to wait in joyful expectation until Christ comes again in glory. The liturgy connects us with the assembly of believers from ages past... In telling the story of our history as God’s people, we see how we have been shaped and transformed throughout the centuries by the saving power of God. Just as every age and culture hands on a heritage of prayer, music, ritual and symbol, so we too will pass on a legacy of prayer and worship for those who follow... At the same time the liturgy must speak to diverse Christian communities, draw people into the mystery of Christ and help them experience the saving power of God in their lives. We must know and understand our past in order to enrich our symbols and renew our rituals in ways that will enable our assemblies to enter into God’s reign in the present.”

(Preparing for Liturgy Series / ‘Preparing the Assembly to Celebrate’ by Kim Aldi-Wanner)